

SPiRiT OF THE PRESS.

Editorial Opinions of the Leading Journals upon Current Topics—Compiled Every Day for the Evening Telegraph.

SENATOR BLAIR.

From the N. Y. World.

An accidental correspondence in dates is soon worth remarking, and it is not the habit of men of sense to alude to what are called "remarkable coincidences" except for ridicule. But a coincidence happened last week to which we think it worth while to call attention. For aught we know, the two facts which tally in point of time may be fraught with important consequences in the politics of the ensuing two years.

Francis P. Blair, Jr., was last week elected a Senator of the United States from Missouri; and a resolution was passed by the Senate last week, looking to a new extension of martial law over the Southern States and a fresh attempt at reconstruction. This is, at least, a curious dovetailing of facts. General Blair's sentiments on the reconstruction question are historical. It is in everybody's recollection that he put forth, in 1868, one of the boldest utterances ever made by a public man; an utterance which dismayed some of his friends, and was caught up with eager exultation by all the enemies of the Democratic party. But the fitness of General Blair's election to the Senate at this present time may perhaps strengthen the belief that

there's a divinity that shapes our ends, Rough-hew them how we will.

It will at least be admitted that no man could be put in the Senate, at the present time, who is so bound by his antecedents, or so fitted by his temper, to confront the new experiment of reconstruction as General Blair. He has every kind of courage, moral, political, and physical; an indomitable, unflinching will, untiring activity, and a boldness of language which cannot fail to rouse and fix attention. He will be a constant thorn in the side of the new reconstructionists. And, what is more to the purpose, he will carry the public opinion of the country with him in his intrepid resistance to a further overhauling of the State governments of the South and a renewal of martial law.

Events move swiftly, and public opinion moves with them. The state of the reconstruction question is very different now from what it was in 1868. Then the country was impatient to have it settled and done with, and judged that acquiescence in what had been begun by Congress was the shortest path to that result. With a Republican Senate, fixed for many years in power, there was no chance of a repeal of the reconstruction acts which would do any good; and even many Democrats preferred the speediest completion of the radical experiment, trusting that the people of the South would soon get control of the new governments. Events have justified their expectation. In the first set of elections after the withdrawal of Federal bayonets, the Democrats have promptly redeemed most of the Southern States from radical control, in spite of the negro vote. If the radicals were content to stand by their own work, and swallow their disappointment in silence, General Blair's election to the Senate would have no particular significance. His Broadhead letter would, in that case, have no more interest than year before last's almanac. It is true that radical members of the Missouri Legislature tried to badger him with it while the Senatorial election was pending; and he, like the man of spirit that he is, refused to sit on the stool of penitence, and professed to adhere to every word of that letter. But if the radicals had the wisdom to let reconstruction alone, he would have no occasion to act upon this profession. The Broadhead letter would be merely a record of what General Blair's opinion was in the summer of 1868, and would have only a biographical interest as a part of his personal history. But the new reconstruction movement, which has just been started, transforms a personal record into a political rallying-cry, and puts General Blair into the foremost rank as a leader of the opposition.

The difference between 1868 and the present time is, that General Blair will now carry the country with him. The very same motives which led the country to acquiesce in the reconstruction of 1868 will impel it to resist a new attempt of the same kind. The country was, even then, tired of agitation, and thought the quicker the question was got rid of the better for every interest. The revival of the agitation now is just what the people will not tolerate. They will unhesitatingly follow the boldest leaders in opposition to this scheme of brazen perfidy. The Republican party cannot hoodwink the country respecting their motives in interfering with the domestic governments of the South. It is manifest to everybody that their sole reason for attempting to unsettle and destroy them a second time is their disappointment in finding that, even with the help of the negro vote, they cannot retain them in the Republican party without a renewal of military terror and coercion. A set of desperate political gamblers are ready to disturb their own settlement because they are disappointed in its party results. The people, who love peace, and support General Grant because they trusted in the sincerity of his famous "Let us have peace," will not stand a reopening of the same expiring controversy. It was in the interest of tranquillity and quiet that General Grant was able to carry the election of 1868, and the people will make him and his party suffer if they wantonly attempt to deprive the South of its freedom of political action in the election of 1872. If they want to elevate General Blair, who was of so much service to them in the last Presidential election, to the rank of a great and successful political leader, they have only to persist in their present reckless attempt, and transmit the desire for tranquillity, which enabled them to win, into resentful indignation at their forfeiture of the pledges. Instead of vainly steming the current, as he did in '68, General Blair will now be rowing in the same direction that it runs. "Let us have peace" will be the Democratic watchword against this new attempt to upset the State governments of the South.

There could not be a more signal proof of the altered tone of public opinion since 1868 than the election of General Blair to the Senate from a State which gave General Grant 25,000 majority. This great change is not brought about by the participation of a different set of voters, for enfranchisement in Missouri has not yet taken place. It is a ripened fruit of the late election, which remains to be gathered. It will come by amendment of the State Constitution, for which the present Legislature will provide. General Blair's election therefore attests an actual change of opinion in the same body voters. The fact that the State was ried by a split in the Republican party

makes the election of General Blair all the more significant. Multitudes of Republicans have ceased to regard the Broadhead letter as of any consequence as a fulmination against past reconstruction; and if there is to be an attempt at future reconstruction and a new disturbance, the author of that letter will have abundant public support in heading the resistance. The scheme which is now hatching to revive martial law in the South, as a means of carrying the next Presidential election, will verify General Blair's prediction, deemed so wild at the time, that General Grant would never peaceably lay down his office if once elected. Such a scheme calls for bold opposition; and what was rashness in 1868 may be intrepid wisdom in 1872. The manner and loss of the Republicans may render General Blair a very important man. There is a limit beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue.

General Grant and the Republican leaders had best deal honestly with the people, and consent to take their chances in a fair election, without again attempting to control the South by bayonets.

HOPING AGAINST HOPE.

From the N. Y. Times.

M. Gambetta's speeches at Lille on Saturday and Sunday last will doubtless elicit from a host of complacent critics, outside of France, such expressions as "brainless enthusiasm," "demagogues," and "charlatan." Chimerical as we believe to be his dream of the final triumph of the French arms, and suicidal as we consider his doctrine of an eternal war being preferable to the surrender of any territory, it would be the shallowest kind of criticism to imagine that we have satisfactorily disposed of the man who is at present the "very head and front" of French resistance, by bestowing on him a few contemptuous epithets. To people regarding the struggle from a safe distance it is exceedingly difficult to understand the feelings which at present animate the people of France. And this difficulty exists not so much because we do not keep in mind the vitality of the sentiment of national honor among all but the lowest class of Frenchmen, but because we are constantly forgetting that the data by which we judge of the progress of the contest are far more complete and convincing than anything to which a citizen of France can possibly have access. At this moment, the inhabitants of Lille, for example, are probably hearing for the first time the sound of Prussian cannon. Standing face to face with an imminent siege, they begin to realize the horrors of a struggle against fate, which they have already but partially felt in the prostration of trade and the dearth of provisions. But they cannot possibly know that Paris begins to show signs of internal dissension, that Doubs is being hopelessly hemmed in by the Vosges, that Chanzy is being slowly but surely driven among the mountains of Brittany, beyond the possibility of extrication, and that the still untouched provinces of the South are musing no great host that shall break through two armies and raise the siege of the capital. Hence Lille thrills with patriotic enthusiasm when called on to bear her share in the common danger, and huris defiance at the invincible foe that is rudely knocking at her gates. Take any other section or city of France, and, with necessary exceptions, the same thing may be said of them. They know little beyond the danger that is nearest to them, and because they have no means of fully ascertaining how hopeless all organized resistance is being proved to be all over France, they count submission as baseness and the talk of peace as concealed treachery. The very perfection with which the Prussians isolate sections helps to defeat the object of the campaign by keeping hope alive when success is past hoping for.

It may be said that M. Gambetta and his associates in the Provisional Government have at least tolerably complete information as to the course of events throughout France. While this is true enough, it must also be remembered that they know better than anybody else how much unexpended energy there is still existing among their countrymen. Were every man capable of bearing arms in the country to rally to the standard of the Republic, they could still oppose three Frenchmen to every German at present on the soil. Every dispassionate observer knows that even then the odds would be on the side of the invaders, and it is impossible to deny that the head of the Provisional Government would deserve well of his country by frankly recognizing the fact. Yet, remembering his position as a mere representative of the popular will, and as the custodian of everything that France holds dear, in a moment of supreme peril, we can easily understand how he may hesitate between two vast responsibilities, and maintain a hopeful tone and unwavering determination to the very last. History will doubtless condemn his stubborn refusal to accept the inevitable, but history cannot fail to concede that his rashness was not altogether without excuse.

PRESIDENTIAL PROSPECTS.

From the N. Y. Tribune.

We have heard it remarked that, should the elections of 1872 copy those of 1870, a Democrat would be chosen President. But that is a miscalculation, as the following table will show:

Table with 2 columns: State, Republican Electors, Democratic Electors. Total Republican majority 22.

We have assumed 150,000 as the probable ratio of representation under the new census; a higher would reduce the number of electoral votes, as a lower would increase it, but neither would materially affect the majority.

Missouri was not carried by the Democrats in 1870, but by the Schurz and Gratz Brown Republicans; but we assume that enough of the State will probably go clear over to put the State against us in '72. We trust they will get sick of their strange company, and come back in season for '72.

Connecticut was carried by the Democrats in the April State election of '68, but went Republican in the ensuing Presidential contest, as she probably will in '72.

Oregon went Democratic in 1870 by a far smaller majority than at her State election of 1868; yet, when she came to vote for President, she gave Seymour but 164 majority over Grant, while California (also Democratic in her preceding State election) went for Grant by 514 majority. We regard both of them, with Nevada, as very doubtful for 1872.

Virginia, Indiana, and Alabama were barely carried Democratic in 1870, and may all be recovered upon the full vote always cast for President. So may North Carolina, especially if the Democracy turn Governor Holden out of office, as they are quite likely to do.

Of the States we have placed in the Republican column, only Pennsylvania, Florida, and Arkansas are at all questionable. Kansas gave some 2900 Republican majority to Congress, though we throw away two of the three Representatives in Congress by personal feuds; but the Legislature is very strongly Republican. Pennsylvania was close on the popular vote last October, but, if a fair allowance is made for the districts distracted by personal feuds, there is a Republican majority. Florida is disputed, but Republican by a close vote.

We drifted astern much further in '62 than in '70, but more than recovered our lost ground when we came to a Presidential year, when almost every legal voter comes to the front. We purpose to repeat the dose in 1872.

VANDENHOFF VS. VANDENHOFF.

From the N. Y. World.

There is a disgusting squabble going on over the extremely unimportant question whether the person who calls himself Charles H. Vandenhoff in Boston is a natural son of the person whose name has never been disputed to be George W. Vandenhoff in New York. The anxiety of the former person to brand himself a bastard is as eager and as delicate as the haste of the latter to brand himself the assalant of a woman whom by implication he admits himself to have been at one time upon terms of affectionate intimacy with. There appears in the correspondence, or rather in the interchange of manifestoes, of this exemplary pair every reason why the senior should desire to disown the junior; but coarseness at all why the junior should be so coruscous to claim kindred with the senior. Why Mr. G. W. Vandenhoff or any other person should object to have Mr. C. H. Vandenhoff for a son is clear. But why Mr. C. H. Vandenhoff or any other person should insist upon having Mr. G. W. Vandenhoff for a father is inexplicable. Let us, therefore, beseech the younger Vandenhoff to change his name, and cease to be a potential polecat. That which we call a Vandenhoff by any other name would be small as sweet. In fact it would be likely to smell much sweeter. Life is short, and art and Vandenhoff are both long. The latter is also difficult to spell. Smith is inoffensive. Suppose he tries Smith. No injured Smith will refuse the equal right of any other man to be a Smith. Nor will any Smith rush madly into print to besmirch the fame of his mother under the pretext of denying himself to be his father. And let us admonish both parties that the public nostril, though not over sensitive, may be revolved. Perfumes are extracted from putrescence. But a show-off of publicity held under one's nose every morning is apt to become offensive.

PARDON BROKERAGE.

From the Harrisburg Patriot.

The pardon of Richard Ficken is not referred to for the purpose of making complaint against Governor Geary. Such a presense was made on him in this case as few executives would be able to withstand. The wealth and social position of the accused, his liberality in providing for the injured and the appeals of his family, all pleaded strongly for the Governor's pardon. The petition, too, was signed by prominent men in both political parties in Philadelphia, as pardon rings there are generally made up in that way. But it is to be observed that the names of District Attorney Sheppard and of the judges of the courts are wanting. That this is a first-class case of pardon brokerage there is not the slightest reason to doubt. A brief account of the circumstances connected with it will not be out of place here.

On the eve of last St. Valentine's day some lads on Broad street, in the neighborhood of the residence of Mr. Ficken, were observing the list of names of sending valentines. They circulated their slanders by slipping them under the doors of the houses of their neighbors. As some of these caricatures display the very coarsest humor, they are apt to give offense to some recipients. One of these valentines was pushed under the door of Ficken. It gave him mortal offense, and he determined to revenge himself on the next comer. The lad Curran came along, and Ficken ran out and shot him through the leg. Ficken was immediately arrested, and held in the sum of twelve thousand five hundred dollars bail.

Soon after his arrest, Ficken, who is a wealthy and refined Philadelphia, disposed of all his interests in this country and fled to Europe, leaving, as is generally believed, the amount of the bond in the hands of a partner named Williams. He was not long abroad until he learned that the boy, who was believed to have been mortally wounded, was slowly recovering. Ficken then determined to return. This country was not such a bad one to live in after all, even if wealthy men are arrested and punished sometimes for indulging in the sport of shooting small boys on the street from a cover. But he could not return to the United States safely with this charge hanging over him. He did not care about the forfeit of his recognizances, as the sum of twelve thousand five hundred dollars was a mere bagatelle to a man of his wealth. But it constituted an item of some consideration to the pardon brokers. Ficken's wish was to come back with a previous pardon that he might resume his business. With his expression of a desire to return, the operations of the pardon brokers began. As a preliminary step he paid the lad Curran \$20,000 damages.

In the opinion of the world it will be held that this wealthy man has behaved quite handsomely, and was the proper object of executive clemency. The present purpose is not to dispute the opinion, but merely to mention the pardon brokerage ring who present themselves fully to public gaze.

The recognizance for \$12,500, already forfeited to the State, is covered by this pardon, and goes to pay a portion of the fees of the brokers. William B. Mann has been at the capital for weeks, dividing his attention between Dechert and Ficken. Mr. Lewis C. Cassidy joins him in assuring the Executive that there was not the slightest intention to commit a crime. Why were they not ready to show this to a court and jury in Philadelphia? The answer is simple enough. They feared a conviction, too, that in a civil suit for damages the father of the lad would recover a greater amount than the \$20,000 which are paraded with such ostentation of liberality. It was better, therefore, to carry their case be-

fore the Governor, and to wipe out all scores with a previous pardon.

Next comes Attorney-General Brewster, who has examined the papers. He is satisfied that the defendant was guilty of gross negligence. The rushing out into the street and shooting a boy is described by this distinguished lawyer as "gross negligence." After this it is not surprising that he should give the Governor his opinion that Ficken did not intend to commit bodily harm. It was on the opinion of his legal adviser that the Governor based this pardon. He has deferred to the Attorney-General in a matter in which he could have better exercised his own judgment. He may yet discover that it will not do to take the advice of an attorney-general who has such intimate associations with the ring. The very manner in which Attorney-General Brewster's appointment was forced on Governor Geary shows that this Ficken case forms a precedent. If a wealthy man shall indulge in such pastimes as that of Ficken, he has only to pay handsome damages, and employ William B. Mann to obtain a previous pardon. The offended majesty of the law will thus be appeased.

CHURCH REFORMATION IN ITALY.

From the London Saturday Review.

It is not easy, even with the help of the little series of publications issued by the "Libreria Rosmini" at Florence, to give any very clear idea of the principles and aims of the reforming party among Italian Catholics. To a certain extent this is no doubt due to the almost inevitable misconceptions which foreigners, especially Protestants, are liable to fall into, with the very best intention of reporting accurately the results of their personal observation. Even if they had time and patience, as they usually have not, to read the principal works of Italian theologians and religious laymen bearing on the subject, they would lack much of the rudimentary information which such works presuppose as a matter of course. But it is true at the same time that the difficulty of mastering the views of the Italian reformers, so to call them, is partly caused by the circumstance that they have very imperfectly mastered or matured their views themselves. Religions and political questions are pretty sure to be inextricably mixed up in the mind of a liberal Italian, as is amusingly exemplified in Garibaldi's protest against the existence of St. Peter. And of the leading men among them who have combined Catholic with patriotic zeal, two only, Rosmini and Gioberti, could claim to be considered theologians. The rest put aside Passaglia, whose theological training was derived from a very different school, and because it is doubtful how far, except as regards the abolition of the temporal power, which has ceased to be a practical question, his sympathies accord with theirs. There is a growing feeling among them that on doctrinal and historical matters their knowledge is imperfect, and hence men like Dollinger are coming to be looked up to by the more cultivated section of both clergy and laity in Italy with a confidence and respect hardly inferior to what they enjoy in their own country. We cannot then accept without reserve the opening statement contained in an interesting pamphlet on the Italian reform movement, lately published by a clergyman of the American Episcopal Church at Florence, that there are two things about reforming on which there is no question among the class of thinkers he is describing—namely, the theocratic government of Rome, because it is hopelessly doomed; and her dogmatic teaching, because it is immutable. Under the latter head he includes Papal infallibility and Papal supremacy, which are certainly questioned by many of the reforming party. Nor is it correct to say that to abjure these tenets "comprises the abjuring of the Church of Rome," because many Roman Catholics do in fact reject them who manifest no intention of breaking with their Church. There is, however, much valuable information to be derived from the extracts, chiefly taken from the works by Ferri and Mamiani, in the pamphlet before us, though we may not always go along with the author's commentary upon them.

That the religious movement in Italy has no tendency towards any form of doctrinal Protestantism, or, as Mamiani expresses it, to "any of the sects hatched by the Reformation," appears to be pretty generally agreed by those who have had the best opportunities of judging. "We may rest assured," he says, "that Italians will either follow the faith of their fathers heartily and thoroughly, or will adopt what is nowadays called Rationalism; that is to say, they will either adopt the negations of criticism and speculation, or hold fast reverently to the authority of tradition." But within these limits there is of course scope for very wide differences of belief and ecclesiastical discipline. The Catholic ideal of a Rosmini or a Dollinger differs *de facto* from the programme of the Jesuit "Civitas," and the actual condition of the Papal Court. Rosmini's famous work on the "Five Wounds of the Holy Church," published originally at the command of Pius IX, who was afterwards induced to place it on the Index, thus explains the reforms most earnestly needed:

According to Rosmini, the wound in the left hand of the Holy Church is the division between the clergy and the people in public worship (the use of the Latin tongue). The wound in the right hand is the insufficient education of the clergy. The wound in the side is the disunion of the bishops. The wound in the right foot is the giving up in the nomination of bishops to the lay power. The wound of the left foot is the slavery of ecclesiastical property (temporalism). These show the reforms so earnestly, so eloquently demanded by Rosmini, and certainly there is nothing in them, nor indeed in any of his works so far as I am acquainted with them, that have in manuscript given any order of the Father General of Jesuits in 1846, all the passages supposed to be exceptional—nothing whatever that sounds in the least like heresy or schism in the Roman sense.

Gioberti, who was more of a philosopher and less of a priest, went further in his speculative teaching, and expressly vindicated the independence and liberty of science reposing on human reason alongside of faith, which rests on supernatural revelation. There should be a perfect concord between philosophy and religion, the Church and civil society, and "progress should be equally possible in and by the Church, as in and by the State." But Gioberti, bitterly as he was troubled and persecuted by the Jesuits, and though he died under the ban of Rome, never transgressed the boundaries of strict orthodoxy in the Catholic sense. In his last work, the "Rinnovamento," "he sees in Catholicism and Idealism the religion and philosophy of his country; he loves his country as at once the chief seat of the Catholic religion and the most natural and legitimate inheritor of Christian and Platonic tradition." He declares that he shall hold the redemption of Italy accomplished "when I see her possessed of a philosophy and literature truly her own, language, her arts and her intellectual riches, Catholic, and proud to possess the seat of religion and the glory of the Christian Pontificate." He says that "the Italians of the middle ages prospered so long as they revered the spiritual fatherhood of their first citizen (the Pope), and with desertion

of that came in slavery." Rome by an eternal decree of Providence is the metropolis and mistress of the world, and from her alone the salvation of Italy can be looked for. The first step to her deliverance from domestic tyranny and a foreign yoke is to deliver her from the yoke of false opinions and renitence to the profession of the holy faith, which has its chief seat in Rome. He would fain "make religion the banner of Italy, and identify it with her genius and nationality." Yet with all this ardent Catholicism is combined a no less ardent zeal for a searching internal reform of the Church, the details of which are traced out in his posthumous work "Riforma Cattolica della Chiesa." Ferri sums them up in his "Essai sur l'Histoire de la Philosophie en Italie au XIXieme Siecle":

The disorders which he deprecates the existence of in the Church are the temporal power of the Pope; the ignorance or insufficient instruction of a portion of the clergy; the want of a tempered liberty in bishops and priests; and the great dependence upon Rome; Jesuitism, which, dominating science, in worship, and in discipline, sets religion and civilization in opposition to each other and makes them enemies; the want of a strong and just *propaganda*, within the Church against scepticism and heresy, without against unbelievers; the selfishness of the clergy in the want of a manly and elevated education for ecclesiastics; the venality and meanness of public worship.

These are the evils. Here are their remedies. The abolition of the temporal power; the Pope; higher instruction of the clergy being intrusted to the bishops and the state; the division of priests into two classes, the one prepared for the other action; reform in the teaching of theology with suppression of scholasticism; elevation to the episcopate of men distinguished by their piety, courage of the State in the instruction and education of young priests; regimentary, disciplinary, and summary reform.

The chief living representative of their views is the statesman Count Mamiani, whose picture of a transfigured Catholicism, as portrayed in his *Rinascenza Cattolica*, does not materially differ from that of Gioberti. The abolition of the Temporal Power, the suppression of "Jesuitism," and the improved training and discipline of the clergy, including some modification of the law of celibacy, are conspicuous features of their scheme. Both alike desire to see a free Church in a free State—a State relinquishing all control over the internal government and tribunals, the Church abandoning all exclusive privileges and submitting in her civil relations to the supremacy of the civil law. How far that ideal is capable of realization, or whether the views of those who cherish it are in all respects consistent with each other and with themselves, are questions which it would take us too long to enter upon here. That such views are widely prevalent, and that they prevail precisely among the most religious and most loyal citizens of the Italian kingdom, there can be no doubt. And we believe, notwithstanding some remarks pointing in an opposite direction in the pamphlet before us, that there are no less prevalent among the more educated portion of the clergy than among the laity. That the same strange phenomenon which has arrested the attention of travelers in Prussia, of an almost superstitious veneration for the priesthood combined with an undisguised dislike or contempt of its individual members, is to some extent reproduced in Italy, may be quite true. It sounds startling certainly to hear of a Roman Cardinal speaking of the Roman clergy as "a race of dogs," and Count Mamiani's unflinching devotion to his Church gives additional weight to his sorrowful assertion that "the clergy are our despair," while another distinguished layman, Azelegio, says that "they have always shown by their conduct that they believe but little, and that the spectacle of Rome has extinguished religion in Italy." Still such statements must be taken with very considerable limitations. Close and impartial observers, like Mr. Cartwright, have pointed out that in many parts of Italy the parish priests deservedly retain the confidence and attachment of their people; and the clergy of the Northern half of the peninsula are, as a rule, far more respected than those of the South. The Florentine *Esaminatore*, the organ of liberal Catholic sentiments, is conducted by priests and circulates widely among them. In a report quoted in this very pamphlet, the accuracy of which we know no reason for distrusting, some two thousand ecclesiastics are spoken of as supporting the views of Mamiani. The true explanation of the unfavorable estimate, wherever it is to be found, is not probably far to seek. It is indicated intelligibly enough in the emphatic demands reiterated again and again by Rosmini and Gioberti for the better education of the clergy, and their complaints of the ignorance, immorality, and selfishness too common among them. Gioberti goes further, as we have seen, and expressly requires that the rule of celibacy shall be modified, the monastic bodies and chapters thoroughly reformed, and more direct encouragement given to intellectual pursuits in the appointment of ecclesiastical dignities. It would be rash to infer from this that the whole clerical body in Italy is lazy, incompetent, and immoral, and there is good reason for believing that such an assumption would be a very exaggerated one. But we may safely conclude that there is ground for very serious complaint, and an urgent call for the reform of long-standing abuses. Whether these reforms will be brought about with the sanction of Rome or in antagonism to her authority must depend very much on the influences dominant there after the close of the present pontificate. But it is clearly impossible that things should long continue as they are. The political changes of the last ten years have materially altered the relations of the Church to Italian society, and in the full blaze of public opinion corruptions which under the old regime were hushed up or openly enforced can neither be tolerated nor concealed. That the attempts, however well intentioned, of Anglican or other external propagandists to interfere in a work which does not belong to them will be useless, if not positively mischievous, is the unanimous verdict of those who have the best right to speak with authority on the subject. The Italian reformers neither need nor will accept their aid. "I know my countrymen," said Count Mamiani to an English friend, "and it will never be to join the Church of England that they will leave us. If they are shaken in their faith it is to rationalism that they will turn, and not to you."

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